

Lesson Plan: Day 5 San Luis Obispo Mission to Monterey Presidio and San Francisco

I. Concepts:

The Trek took most of the colonizers all of the way to Monterey. The California portion went from mission to mission (there were only five missions in California in 1776). The group then founded the San Francisco presidio and mission. The group doubled the population of Alta California and the cattle they brought began the economy that led to the hide and tallow trade in the mid-1800s. Anza returned home successfully to be named the Governor of the New Mexico area. Students will discuss their solutions to the expedition problems. Students will complete a letter to their family in Mexico describing their new life in California.

II. Preparation:

- Pull out images for remaining Trek — California missions, a bear, a whale
- Approximate time for lesson:1 hour

III. Classroom Activities:

- Teacher and students read Day 5 Summary
- Teacher leads discussion about how the Trek went and the five problems encountered
- Teacher tells what really happened
- Students are told about the remainder of the Trek to Monterey
- Students write a letter about their identity 's Trek
- Journals are turned in for grading

Notes:

You should suggest that students put extra paper behind the last page of their journal for their writing assignment (due to the bumpy texture of the Journal).

You may wish to duplicate the records from the 1790 census "Fifteen Years Later ..."and cut them apart to give to the students after the journal is returned.

For those interested in extending the lesson to specific areas the Trek covered (Arizona, New Mexico and California),send a written request to SBTHP,P.O.Box 388,Santa Barbara, CA 93102-0388,Attn.Anza Extentions.

Trek Problems & Actual Solutions

A. You have arrived at the Colorado River and Captain Anza is worried because the river is much higher than it was when he crossed it on his first exploration trip two years ago. Should you try to build rafts and float people and animals across? Palma, the Yuma Chief, advises you not to try. If you decide against rafts what should you do?

Anza decides to look for another place to cross and finds where the river divides into three channels. The packs are lightened and all people and horses cross without mishap. The only problem is that the long-horn cattle cannot bushwhack to get to this ford, so the cattle cross the swift river and some are lost.

B. You see the vast sand dunes to your right and know that water is going to be very hard to find for all 240 people and all the animals. On the first exploration trip Anza was able to dig down and find water below the level of the sand, but Anza knows there will not be enough for everyone. What would he do?

Anza divides the party into three groups (as you did for your trek). Scouts went ahead to dig the wells so the water could seep up into them. Each group travels a day apart and digs the wells for the next group before they leave. A snowstorm hit the second day and the third group was delayed, causing much concern. One man froze his ear off.

C. You come over a rise and surprise a small group of natives. The natives are frightened and run away, but they forget to take their baskets and other belongings with them. What would you do?

Anza sends two soldiers after them and they return their belongings to them.

D. A snowstorm has come up and everyone is very cold. There is not much firewood in this area and the animals have strayed because there is little food for them. What would you do?

Everyone bundles up as well as they can. The group is forced to travel on for lack of forage and water. Everyone who can walk, walks to help the animals. Each member fills his/her water bag as full as possible before leaving. Whenever forage for the animals is spotted along the trail, they pick it to feed the animals later when in camp for the night.

E. It is Christmas Eve and a baby has been born. Should the group move on or will you wait for the mother and baby to be rested?

They rest for Christmas Day and the mother and baby are ready to go the next day. See The Christmas Baby story.

The Christmas Baby

A legend adapted from “*Borrego ’s Christmas Angel* ” by Karl von Voightlander, *Desert Magazine* 1964

This migration, the first to travel an inland route from Sonora, New Spain, to California, was the culmination of dreams and work of both clergy and military. Franciscan Fathers hoped for a land route to reach their missions on the lush green coast of California and Captain Anza, after a reconnaissance to map camp sites and water holes, believed it feasible. Over 300 people struggled over desert terrain from Tubac to reach their destination.

It was the day before Christmas Eve in the year 1775. Father Font and Captain Anza urged the straggling line forward, sometimes with excessive pressure. But Captain Anza could be tender too, as was proven by his consideration for Senora Lenares who must very shortly give birth to her child. At last the pitiful band reached the valley in the cupped bowl of the San Ysidro, Santa Rosa and V Illecito Mountains. Ahead to the west frowned the twin peaks of Toro Mountain, snow crowned and still to be conquered. Thirsty, hungry and bone tired, the emigrants wrapped themselves in rags and huddled together for the night. A trail-weary mother pointed to a strange apparition on the mountain to the northwest and screamed, “¡*Madre de Dios!* Look Father, an angel points. Surely it ’s a good omen. Perhaps it points to water.” It was the next morning ’s dawn when the superstitious woman ’s good omen gave them hope enough to move forward again. The emigrants chattered and gesticulated toward the etched figure, but Father Pedro Font smiled grimly. He knew, as did Captain Juan Bautista de Anza, leader of the expedition, that water would be found ahead if the exhausted emigrants had the strength to reach it. While the haggard colonists peered hopefully into the pale, bone-chilling December dawn of the Anza-Borrego Desert, the priest hoped that this woman ’s superstition might provide them with strength.

Through ocotillo, cat ’s claw, and greasewood they pressed until dusk, when a great shout resounded from the vanguard. “A miracle, a miracle in the desert!” Water bubbled down the canyon now known as Coyote Canyon. It tinkled over rocks, soaked marshy cienegas and riffled tender sprigs of watercress before it disappeared again into desert sand. Some of the expedition credited it to the good omen, but most of them fell to their knees and thanked God.

That night, on Christmas Eve of 1775, Senora Lenares delivered one of the first Spanish children to be born in California. A day later the emigrants resumed their journey to the Pacific.

Day 5 Summary

From the San Luis Obispo Mission, the group traveled to the San Antonio de Padua Mission site. Located in a fertile valley and next to a stream with oak covered hills, the mission offered the settlers a taste of what life would be like when they arrived in San Francisco. They continued their travels, eventually reaching the Monterey Presidio and the Carmel Mission.

Here, the expedition took a much-deserved rest. Anza needed to still determine where the settlement would be established in San Francisco as well as the mission site. He had also been told by the viceroy to seek out the San Francisco River and see what type of fresh water sources flowed into the Bay.

Anza gathered a small group of soldiers as well as father Font and they traveled together north to San Francisco. Along the way, many new sights greeted them, including redwoods, bears, and elk. They also saw new communities of Native Americans. North of Monterey, they met members of the Salinan tribe. Closer to the Golden Gate, they met groups of Ohlone Indians. When they arrived at the Golden Gate, Anza realized that with the commanding view of the bay, this would be the best spot for the new presidio. The grass-covered hills would provide good forage for the horses and cattle that would supply the new settlement. An hours ride from the presidio, Anza discovered a small creek in a wooded area that would be good for the new mission.

Having finished his work in San Francisco, Anza traveled to the south end of the San Francisco Bay as he and Font mapped out fresh water sources. They continued over to the eastern shore, traveling a few miles inland from the bay. The marshy shoreline made travel any closer difficult. As they moved north, they followed narrow trails that had been created by the Native American inhabitants of the area. Some Indians paid them little attention, while others took note of their passage. Near Hayward, the sight of horses and soldiers caused one Ohlone man to drop to the ground in terror. Farther north near the San Francisco Delta, groups of Miwok Indians swarmed Anza and presented him with gifts of salmon. After meeting with the tribe, Anza continued east to explore the Carquinez Strait, before finally heading south and returning to the settlers in Monterey.

The final job of establishing the settlement in San Francisco would fall to Anza's lieutenant, Joaquin Moraga. Anza needed to return to Mexico to report on the success of the expedition. After a tearful good-bye, Anza left the settlers at their temporary home in Monterey as they prepared for their new lives in San Francisco at the very edge of the Spanish frontier.

Synopsis of Anza 's Second Trek - Sonora, New Spain to Monterey, Alta California

September,1775, Participants start to gather at Horcasitas, Sonora, New Spain.

September 29th - Entire group assembles at the Tubac Presidio and the expedition starts. First night out a son is born to Manuela Pinuelas (name not used as an identity card). She dies of complications. Child lives but dies later at 11 months at San Gabriel Mission. She is the only death besides five miscarriages during the entire trip. There were three live births along the way. Group travels north to the Gila River. Grass is OK but there is a lack of good water. Font performs three marriages at San Xavier del Bac.

October 27th - Expedition leaves Tuquison, last pueblo before the wilderness.

October 30th - Anza and Font visit "Casa Grande," an ancient Indian ruin.

November Group travels along the Gila River, encountering salty soil, cold, lack of good pasturage.

November 27th- Group meets up with Captain Palma (Spanish name for head man of the Yuma Tribe).There is a warm welcome and gifts are given to the Indians. Natives share watermelons that were preserved by burying them in the sand. Gila River joins the Colorado River here. Natives in this area are in peaceful alliance since Anza 's previous trip.

November 30th - Group fords the Colorado River. (The classroom trek exercise on Day begins here and ends at San Gabriel Mission). December is extremely cold. The group advances in three sections to use water wells dug in the soft ground. Font sees seashells in the ground leading him to believe that this area was once under water.

December 25th -The group has reached Coyote Canyon and a baby is born. (See The Christmas Baby story on page 34)

December 26th - Some soldiers go ahead to find the San Gabriel Mission to get fresh horses.

December 28th - Group encounters green grass and fresh water.

January 1,1776,Soldiers return from San Gabriel Mission and tell Anza of the uprising at the San Diego Mission. (Request "Extensions "for those interested in this episode)
The following labeled pictures are provided and may be used while relaying information on the rest of the trek.

1 San Gabriel Mission

2 San Diego Mission

- 3** Whales
- 4** Bears
- 5** San Luis Obispo Mission
- 6** San Antonio Mission
- 7** Carmel Mission

January 5th - Group arrives to warm welcome at San Gabriel Mission.1

January 6th - Anza leaves the main group at the San Gabriel Mission and takes some soldiers to help cope with the Indian uprising.2

February 4th - Anza returns to San Gabriel and gets ready to continue trek to Monterey.

February 21st - The group crosses the Porciuncula River (Los Angeles River).

February 23rd - The group sees the Pacific Ocean (Santa Barbara Channel) and witnesses whales spouting.3

February 25th - The group camps at Goleta Slough.

February 29th - The group sees six bears on leap year.4

March 1st - The day is very foggy.

March 2nd - The group turns the corner at Punta de la Concepcion (refer to California map).

March 3rd - The group arrives at Mission San Luis Obispo.5.41

March 6th - The group arrives at Mission San Antonio.6

March 11th - The group arrives at Monterey.7

March 22nd - Anza and a small party explore the San Francisco Peninsula to select a spot for a new mission and presidio.

April 14th - Anza and returning group leave Moraga in charge and begin journey back to Tubac, arriving home on June 2, 1776.

An Aside: Anza 's return trip

On April 14th - 1776, Anza started his return trip with Father Font, ten soldiers from Tubac, some servants and muleteers, the commissary, and one of the recruited couples that decided not to stay in Alta California (Carlos Gallegos and Maria Josefa Espinosa).

Anza 's trip back went relatively smoothly and he arrived in Horcasitas on June 1st after an absence of eight months. He then went to Mexico City to give a report on his trip and was made Governor of the Province of New Mexico. He continued in his leadership role there until 1787. He was then made commander of all troops in Sonora. He died suddenly in December 1788 at his home in Arizpe in northern Sonora, Mexico.

Story Starters - Preparatory Lesson

To the teacher: If students have not used story starters before they may need some examples to begin.

You have arrived at your final destination. You need to write a letter for Commander Anza to take back to Sonora for your friends or relatives left behind. The letter should tell them about your trip.

(Use at least two of these sentence starters in your letter)

Sentence starters:

This trip has been.....

One of the most interesting things I saw.....

I was really afraid when

I think you would like Alta California because

July 1776

San Francisco, Alta California

New Spain

Dear _____
